

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	SED Directive on Refugees	DATE DISTR.	4 March 1953
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PLACE ACQUIRED	[REDACTED]	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD

REFERENCES

25X1X

1. The Politbüro of the SED issued a directive to the East German press on 10 February 1953, giving the following instructions:
 - a. Refugees fleeing from East Germany are to be described as "fugitives from the Republic (republikflüchtige)". Only in exceptional cases is the term "deserter (Ueberläufer)" to be applied.
 - b. Propaganda for the return of the refugees is to be increased.
 - c. Particular emphasis is to be placed on the danger facing young male refugees that upon their arrival in the West they may be shanghaied by the French Foreign Legion.
2. The directive declared that the fact that every such person returning to East Germany is immediately arrested and confined for a period varying from two weeks to three months must be kept quiet. This imprisonment is considered to be for "re-educational purposes", while allowing sufficient time for an investigation of the person's activities during his stay in the West. In case of acquittal, the confinement is to be regarded as a police punishment for failure to register the change of address with the local police.

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